

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court Annual Report 2008



Photo by Emma Budros

Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.

Reinhold Niebuhr

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INTRODUCTION: "PUBLIC SERVICE"

The Court would like to recognize all those citizens who serve government at the local level. Whether it is as a member of a township board, a city commission, a county commission or one of the many boards and committees that serve local government, your service is either unpaid or only modestly compensated relative to the time it takes you away from your business and your family. In recent years, an effort was made to intimidate public officials in their decision-making process by filing personal lawsuits against them. This Court has held that such lawsuits are improper.

It is rare that a public official is a proper party defendant, as opposed to the governmental entity itself, in a lawsuit regarding government decisions. Claims against government officials are often anti-democratic. Those who raise them argue that individuals who have expressed personal opinions on matters of public interest should be precluded from voting on those issues in their official capacity. However, when running for an elected position, expressing personal opinions on public matters is required in order for the electorate to make an informed choice.

Like you, the Judges of this Circuit served on public boards prior to their election to the Circuit Court bench. We well understand the time commitment involved and the difficulty in making principled decisions on significant issues where friends and neighbors disagree. We appreciate those who step forward, accept the challenge, and dedicate substantial personal resources to the community.

On another note, the process of remodeling courthouse facilities to adequately serve our area's population in the 21st Century continued in 2008. Antrim County finished renovating its courthouse several years ago and the new Leelanau County Governmental Center opened in the spring of 2008. The renovation of the historic Grand Traverse County Courthouse was substantially completed by the end of 2008 with the relocation of the Friend of the Court and the Department of Corrections staff back into the building. The renovations were sensitive to the historic nature of the building and the Court thanks the Grand Traverse County Commission for their continued support of this historic structure.

In 2008, we began to upgrade our technological capacity in order to eliminate the significant amounts of paper generated by a busy court. The Friend of the Court, for all practical purposes, went paperless in 2008. We will be studying an electronic filing program in 2009 and hope to implement a system that will increase efficiency and lower the costs for paper, postage and staff time.

JUDGES OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court serves Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. The Circuit Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction that hears civil cases involving damages or loss of \$25,000 or more, matters in equity including such things as requests for injunctive relief, domestic relations matters, appellate review of lower courts and tribunals, and criminal felony cases. Circuit Court Judges Philip E. Rodgers, Jr. and Thomas G. Power are the Circuit Court Judges who “ride the circuit” and preside over matters in all three counties. Judicial assignments are made by a random, alternating case selection process.

The Family Division of the Circuit Court was established in 1998 and has jurisdiction over juvenile criminal cases, child abuse and neglect, guardianships of juveniles, and adoption proceedings, as well as domestic relations matters. The Probate Judge for each county is the Presiding Judge of the Family Division within his county of election. The Circuit Court Judges preside over all Grand Traverse County cases encompassed within the jurisdiction of the Family Division that do not involve minor children as well as half of those cases that do involve minor children.

The Chief Judge of the Circuit is responsible for the supervision of all aspects of the Court.

HON. PHILIP E. RODGERS, JR.



Judge Rodgers was first elected to the bench in 1990, and was re-elected without opposition in 1996, 2002 and 2008. Judge Rodgers served as Chief Judge from 1992 through 1997, from 2002 through 2003 and from 2008 to the present. Prior to assuming the bench, the Judge was a partner and trial attorney in the law firm of Menmuir, Zimmerman, Rollert and Kuhn.

Judge Rodgers graduated in 1978 from the University of Michigan Law School. He previously obtained his undergraduate degree in economics and political science from the University. He also received a Master of Public Policy Degree from the University in 1977. As a college student, the Judge was a Rotary International Graduate Fellow and spent a year in England studying public finance economics. Later, the Judge joined the Traverse City Rotary Club and served for six years on the Board of Directors of Rotary Charities.

Judge Rodgers has served his community through participation on the City Commission for four years, and was Mayor of the City of Traverse City in 1989. The Judge is an active member of the Michigan Judge's Association, serving on both its Legislative and Executive Committees. In 2007, he served as the organization's President.

Judge Rodgers is married and has four children.

HON. THOMAS G. POWER

Judge Power is a native of Traverse City. He was elected to the bench in 1992. He was re-elected in 1998 and 2004, after running for re-election without opposition. He is currently serving his third term. He alternates serving as Chief Judge. Prior to his election, Judge Power represented Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Kalkaska Counties in the Michigan State Legislature for ten years. Among his committee assignments was the Judiciary Committee. Judge Power also practiced law in Traverse City with the law firm of Elhart and Power. Judge Power graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1974, having first obtained his undergraduate degree in Economics from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. Judge Power later obtained a Master's Degree in taxation from New York University in 1978. He is a 1968 graduate of Traverse City Central High School.



Judge Power is a member of the Traverse City Rotary Club and is a pilot for the United States Coast Guard Air Auxiliary. He is a past member of the Traverse City School Board and the Grand Traverse/Leelanau Community Mental Health Board. In 2008, he was inducted into the Traverse City Central High School Hall of Fame.

The Judge is married and has two children.

HON. JOSEPH E. DEEGAN



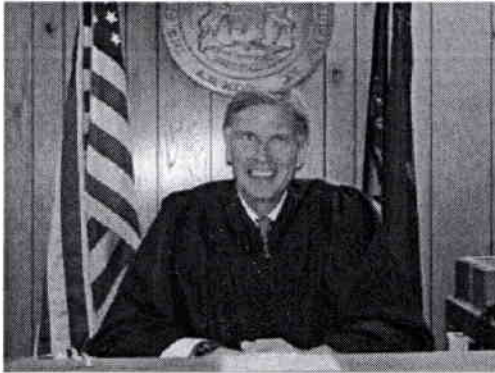
Judge Deegan has served his constituents as Probate Judge presiding over all litigation involving estates, guardianships, conservatorships and mental health commitments since 1989. Effective January 1, 1998, Judge Deegan also serves the Family Division by presiding over all Leelanau County cases encompassed within the jurisdiction of the Family Division.

Judge Deegan was first elected Probate Judge for Leelanau County in 1988. He took office on January 1, 1989 and was re-elected without opposition to a second term in November of 1994. He began serving as the Antrim County Family Division Judge in 1998 and has been re-elected twice since then without opposition. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Deegan was Leelanau County Prosecuting Attorney for two terms from 1981 to 1988.

Judge Deegan earned his law degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1963 after obtaining his undergraduate degree from Sacred Heart Seminary College in Detroit.

Judge Deegan and his wife, Jeanne, have seven children and seven grandchildren.

HON. DAVID L. STOWE



Judge Stowe was first elected Grand Traverse County Probate Judge in November 2000 and has served in that capacity since January 1, 2001. He is currently in his second term, having been re-elected without opposition in 2006. The Probate Court has jurisdiction over cases pertaining to the administration of wills, estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships and the treatment of the adult mentally ill and developmentally disabled. Judge Stowe also serves as a Family

Division Circuit Court Judge and presides over one-half of all Grand Traverse County cases within the jurisdiction of the Family Division that involve minor children.

Before taking the bench, Judge Stowe practiced law in Traverse City. He is a past President of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association, and has served on numerous local and state boards involving children, families and seniors. Prior to beginning his legal career, Judge Stowe was a health department sanitarian, high school biology teacher and worked in Washington, D.C. as a lobbyist.

Judge Stowe received a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Michigan State University and his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

HON. NORMAN R. HAYES



Since January 1, 2001, Probate Judge Norman Hayes has served the residents of Antrim County presiding over all litigation involving estates, guardianships, conservatorships, and mental health commitments. As the Presiding Judge of the Antrim County Family Division, he also supervises all divorce actions, personal protection requests, juvenile delinquency cases, neglected or abused children proceedings, and adoption events.

Prior to becoming Judge of Probate, Judge Hayes served 10 years as a District Court Judge in Antrim, Otsego and Kalkaska counties and 11 years as a Prosecutor. He has previously served as a Director of the Michigan District Judges Association and a Director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan.

Judge Hayes obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and Mott College and earned his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1979. The Judge is married and has three children.

COURT FINANCES

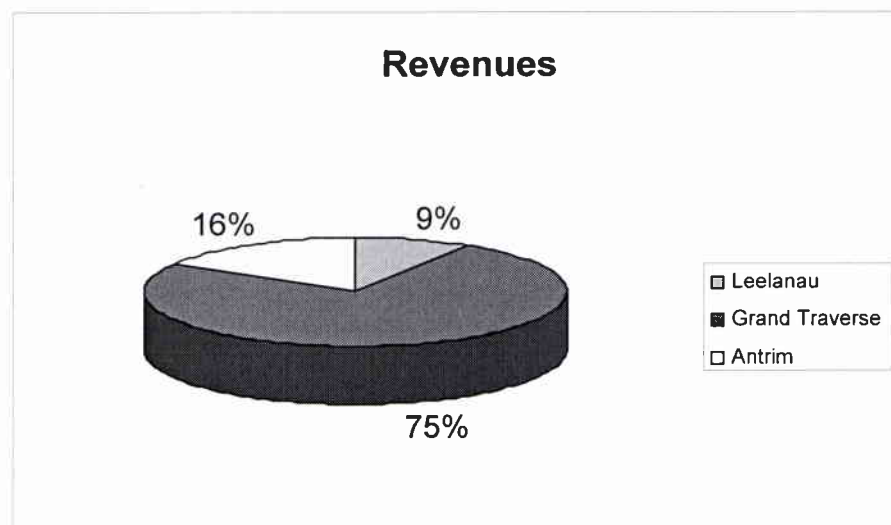
Joint Judicial Commission

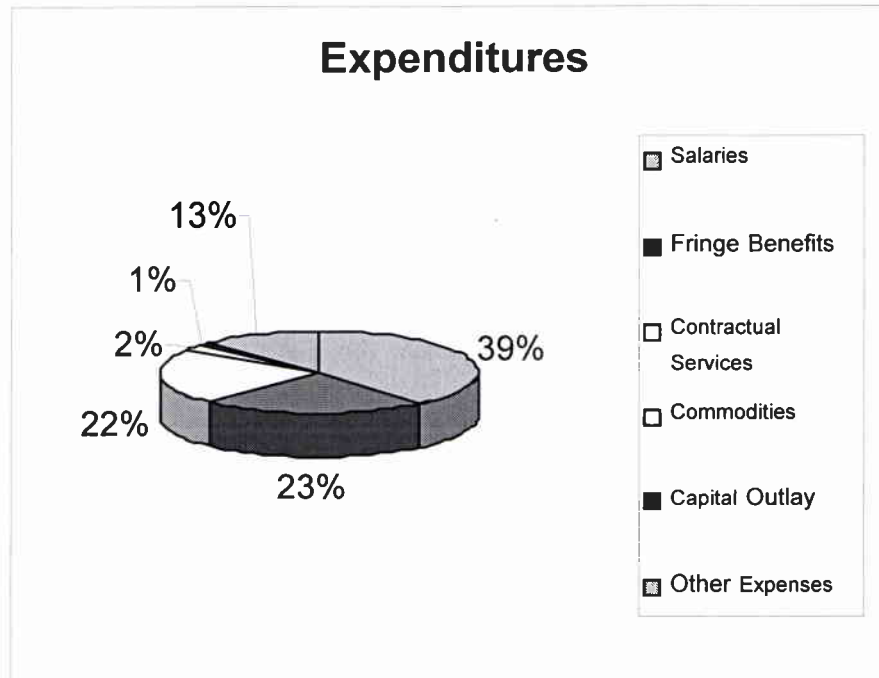
Pursuant to an Inter-County Operating Agreement, the Joint Judicial Commission was established to act as a liaison committee among the counties and Judges to coordinate financial and administrative responsibilities between the counties and the Court. The Joint Judicial Commission consists of the Judges, Court Administration, board chairperson, chairperson of the Finance/Ways and Means Committee, County Administrator/Coordinator and Chief Administrative Fiscal Officer from each county.

Grand Traverse County is the designated fiscal agent for the Thirteenth Circuit Court. Grand Traverse County is responsible for the processing, audit, verification, and payment of all operating expenses and for maintaining the Circuit Court Operating Fund. The expenses of operating the Court are divided into “cost-shared” and “cost-direct” expenses. Cost-shared expenses include such items as salaries and fringe benefits, office space, computer data processing, office supplies, and other capital expenditures. These expenses are paid for out of the Operating Fund. On a monthly basis, each county pays into the Fund its pro-rata share of actual expenses incurred. Cost-direct expenses such as Court-appointed attorney fees, jury fees, witness fees, transcript fees and courthouse security costs are paid directly by each individual County.

Revenue and Expenditures

In 2008, Antrim County transferred \$261,938, Leelanau County transferred \$144,066, and Grand Traverse County transferred \$1,191,821 into the Operating Fund. Additional revenue comes from the state, from filing fees and Court costs assessed by the County Clerks’ Offices.





Expenditures for 2008 included:

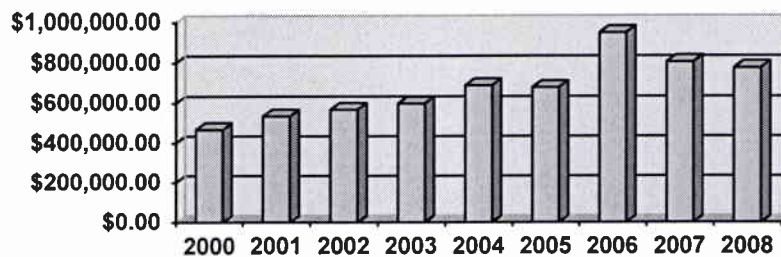
\$ 626,050	Salaries for judicial, administrative and FOC staff.
\$ 368,037	Fringe benefits for judicial and administrative staff (incl. FICA of \$42,753).
\$ 353,961	Contractual Services for payments for defense counsel, transcripts, juror payments and mileage, interpreters, professional services and other items central to administration and operation of the Court.
\$ 32,244	Commodities, primarily for postage and office supplies.
\$ 201,242	Other expenses for costs including such items as equipment rental, printing, utilities, law books, continuing education and liability insurance.
\$ 13,933	Capital Outlays (including law books, office equipment and furniture).

Collections

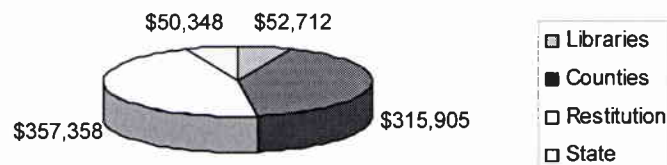
The Court also operates a highly successful collection program that allows the Court to collect fines, costs, court-appointed attorney fees, restitution and crime victim fund payments from convicted felons. In 2008, a total of \$776,322 was collected. Of this total, \$115,214 was collected in Antrim County, \$118,757 in Leelanau County and \$542,351 in Grand Traverse County.

These funds go to each of the three Counties. Fines help support the public libraries in each County. Costs and attorney fees go to the Counties to defray the cost of providing court-appointed counsel for indigent litigants. Most of the remainder of these funds go to the Counties to reimburse the victims of crimes for their losses.

13th Circuit Court Collections



2008 Collections Distribution



COURT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

The Court Administration Office is staffed by well-trained, highly skilled and personable members of the administrative team who continually strive to improve the Court's delivery of services. Each member of the staff has specific responsibilities and is cross-trained to assist during any other member's absence.

Teri Quinn is the Circuit Court Administrator. She has been employed with the 13th Circuit since 1996. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Baker College. She is also a certified Terminal Agency



Back Row: Teri Quinn, Debbie Rutkowski, Stacy Fewins
Front Row: Terri Lynn Andresen, Carol Dee, Julie Arends, Kim Sheridan

Coordinator (TAC) for the Michigan State Police Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN). In 2008, Teri completed her mediator training approved by the State Court Administrative Office for the Community Dispute Resolution Program and is a volunteer mediator.

Teri is responsible for the Circuit Court budgets in Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties as well as the budget and upkeep of the law libraries in Antrim and Leelanau Counties. The Court works with the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association and the Traverse Area District Library to budget and maintain the Grand Traverse Law Library.

Much of 2008 was focused on the remodel of the historic Courthouse making room for new technology and more meeting and mediation space for attorneys and parties. The Court Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day supervision of case-flow management for civil and criminal cases, collections and staff. She also conducts all of the pre-trials, final conferences and show cause hearings for criminal cases in all three counties.

Terri Lynn Andresen came to Circuit Court Administration after working with the Friend of the Court where she had worked as an Enforcement Specialist. Terri Lynn has been with the Circuit Court since 1990. Terri Lynn has been instrumental in managing the collections revenues. In addition to her duties as a Collections Specialist, she also manages the Personal Protection caseload.

Julie Arends, a graduate of Ferris State University with a Bachelor's degree in Office Administration-Administrative Services, joined Circuit Court Administration as a Judicial Secretary in 1995. In 2003, Julie became the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Clerk while continuing some of the duties associated with a Judicial Secretary. Julie supervises all aspects of the Court's ADR Program, monitoring the cases ordered into domestic relations or general civil mediation as well as case evaluation. In 2005, Julie implemented monthly transmission of the Court's case evaluation conflict letters via e-mail to its panel of case evaluators to conserve judicial resources. Also in 2005, Julie initiated a program to annually audit the status of the Court-approved mediators pursuant to applicable court rules. She also serves as a member of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee.

Carol Dee has been with the court system for over 30 years. She began her career in 1971 as a secretary in Alpena. In 1985, she came to Grand Traverse County and began working in Circuit Court Records as a Deputy Clerk. She worked there until 1994 when she was recruited to work in Circuit Court Administration where she helped to create and develop the seamless scheduling program that is now in place. Carol is cross-trained with all other staff in Circuit Court Administration. In mid-2008, Carol transitioned to the front desk where she answers the telephones, greets litigants and counsel, reviews and distributes incoming mail and processes outgoing documents. Carol also docket attorney-noticed motions and expedites personal protection and other ex parte orders. She keeps the Judges' calendars

updated and manages courtroom and court reporter assignments. She schedules final divorce hearings and is responsible for the Grand Traverse County felony defense roster and the Antrim County collections program. Carol also provides backup for conducting pre-trials, final conferences and show cause hearings in criminal cases.

Kim Sheridan came to Circuit Court Administration in June 2008 with several years' experience as a legal secretary and executive assistant. She previously worked for Grand Traverse County at the Law Enforcement Center. Kim joined our staff as a Circuit Court Specialist and Judicial Secretary. She is also cross-trained with other staff in Circuit Court Administration and performs collections duties for Leelanau County.

Debbie Rutkowski began her career with the Michigan court system in 1985 in the 46th Circuit Court, which includes Crawford, Kalkaska and Otsego Counties. She worked for over 20 years as an assignment clerk, judicial secretary, and case manager. Debbie joined the 13th Circuit Court as a Specialist in May 2008. Her primary duties include scheduling criminal and civil hearings and trials, establishing court calendars and report preparation.

Stacy Fewins began her career as a Legal Secretary for Legal Services of Northern Michigan in 1988. She has also worked as a Deputy Clerk for the 87th District Court (Kalkaska) and an Office Specialist for the Probation Department of the 86th District Court (Traverse City) before beginning her duties here in June of 2008. Stacy's main duties are that of the Domestic Relations ADR Clerk. Stacy is responsible for scheduling the custody, support and parenting time matters for the Referees in the three-county Circuit. She also processes and monitors the cases ordered into mediation for child-related issues, as well as property-related issues in pre-judgment divorce cases. Stacy serves as a member of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee.



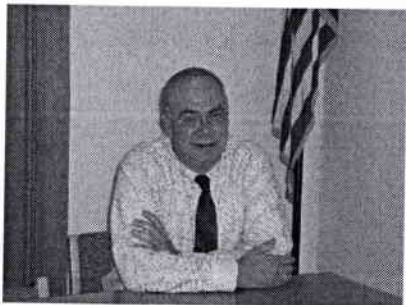
Court Reporters

Karen Carmody and **Jessica Matula** are the Court's official Court Reporters. Like the Judges, the Court Reporters "ride the circuit," reporting in each of the three counties, as needed.



Judicial Assistants

Each of the Circuit Court Judges employs a full time Judicial Assistant who conducts legal research, drafts judicial opinions and orders and serves as a liaison between the Court and the jury during jury trials. The Assistants also facilitate the movement of the cases by preparing civil scheduling conference orders, reviewing pleadings, communicating with counsel, and working with litigants and their counsel during the final settlement conferences.



Mike Rader is Judge Power's Judicial Assistant. Prior to working for the Court, Mike worked for a local private law firm. Mike has been with the Court for more than 20 years.

Barbara Budros is a Judicial Staff Attorney to Judge Rodgers. Barbara is an attorney licensed to practice law in Texas and Michigan. She has a background in criminal prosecution and civil litigation. Barbara is a trained facilitative mediator. She authored the Court's ADR Plan, Plan for Appointment of Counsel to Represent Indigent Parties and the Court's Case Management Plan. Barbara has been the writer, editor and photographer of the Court's Annual Report since 1998. In 2007, Barbara was elected to a four-year term on the City Commission for the City of Traverse City.



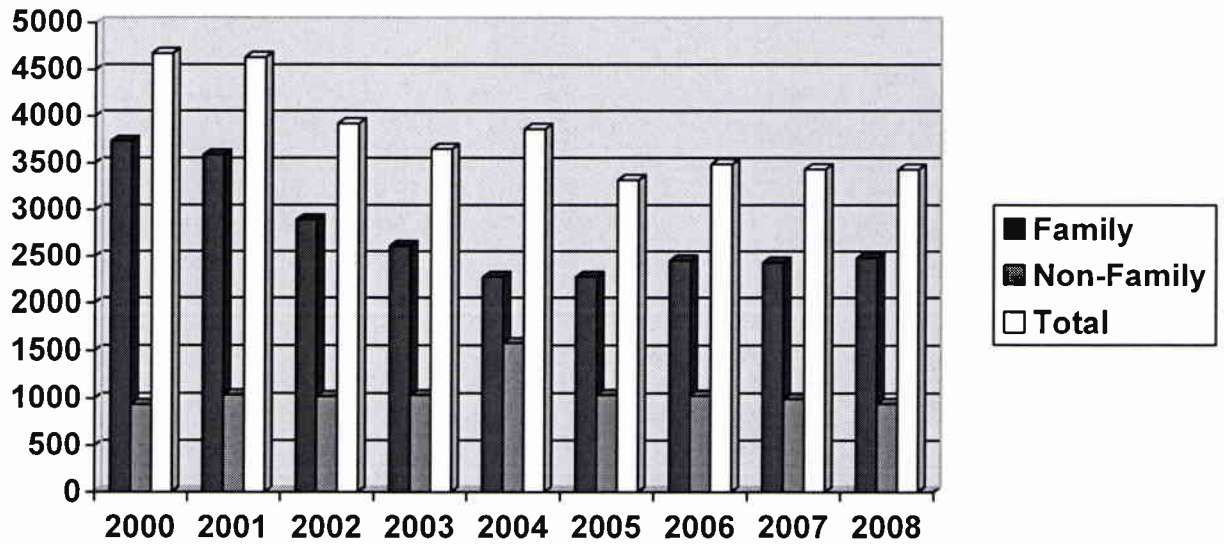
CASE MANAGEMENT

The Thirteenth Circuit strictly adheres to the Michigan Court Rules time lines and Administrative Orders regarding case flow management. In every case, the Court's Scheduling Order sets forth the time line for the disposition of the case consistent with the time lines set by the State Court Administrative Office ("SCAO"). The Court's administrative staff provides intensive case management to "move the docket" and to avoid the aging of the Court's cases. Throughout Michigan, this Court has developed a reputation as a "well-oiled machine" that resolves cases in a short time frame. The Court's case management system requires constant monitoring and follow up with the result that a litigated civil dispute can realistically be resolved within a calendar year and a criminal case within a few months.

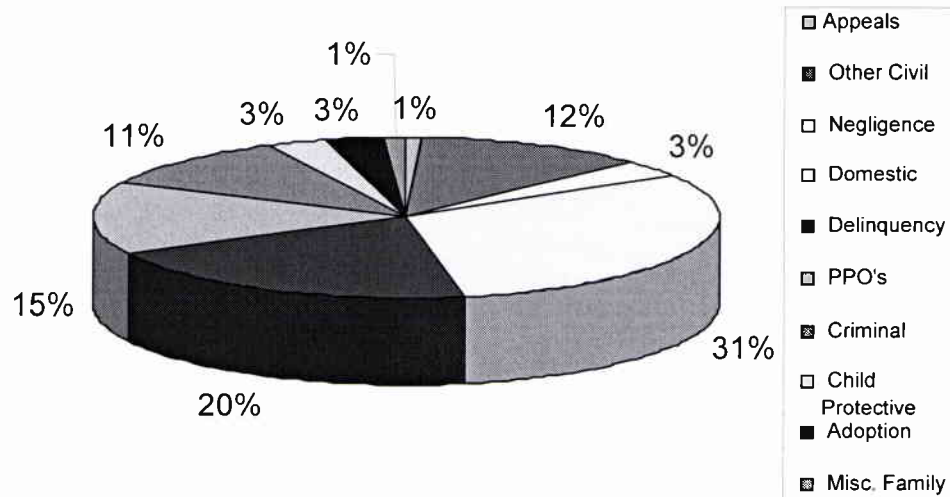
Caseload

There were 751 cases pending at the beginning of 2008. A total of 3,432 new cases were filed during 2008. Of these new filings, 947 were non-family Circuit Court cases and 2,485 were Family Division cases. The Judges disposed of a total of 3,806 cases during the year and only 801 cases were still pending at the end of the year.

13th Circuit Court New Case Filings

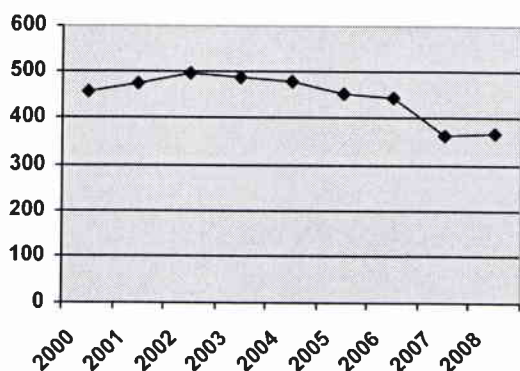


Circuit Court Caseload Mix 2008



Case Filing Trends

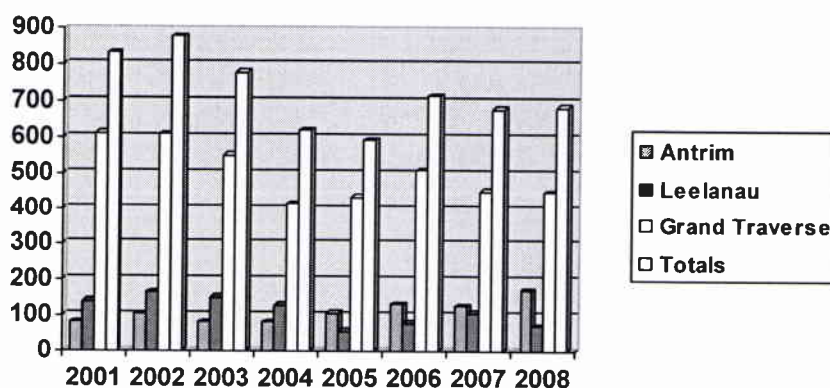
Felony Criminal



After experiencing a steady decline in felony cases over the prior five years, the number of felony criminal cases filed in the Circuit leveled out in 2008. Drunk driving, controlled substance offenses and thefts still account for the vast majority of the felonies committed in the Circuit. The Court has not noticed a significant increase in assaultive crimes, although more domestic violence cases are being prosecuted as a result of having an Assistant Attorney General specifically assigned to this Circuit to handle these cases.

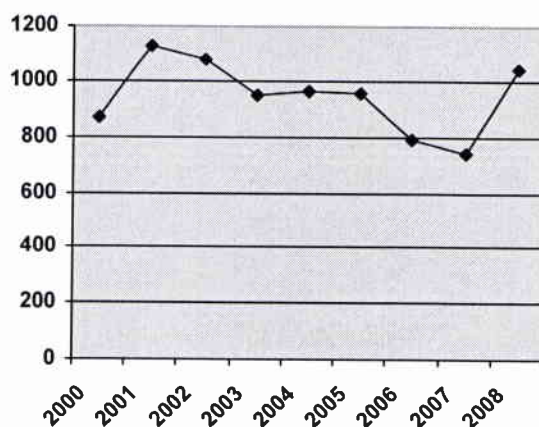
Juvenile Delinquency

There were 169 juvenile delinquency petitions filed in Antrim County Family Division in 2008. In Leelanau County, there were 67 and in Grand Traverse County there were 447, for a total of 683 juvenile delinquency petitions filed in the Circuit.



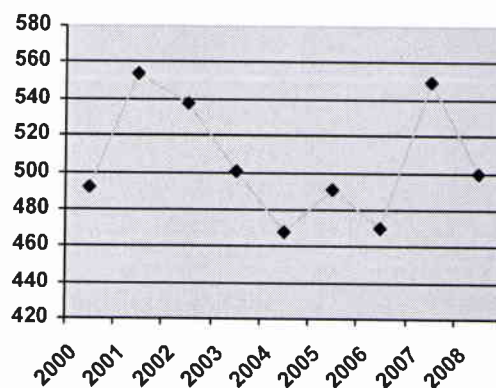
Domestic Relations

The number of divorces and paternity cases reached a record high in 2001 and then began to decline. After remaining stable between 2003 and 2005, the number of divorces declined in 2006 and again in 2007, but then increased dramatically in 2008. Sadly, this increase is in part due to an increase in the number of long-term marriages that are being dissolved.



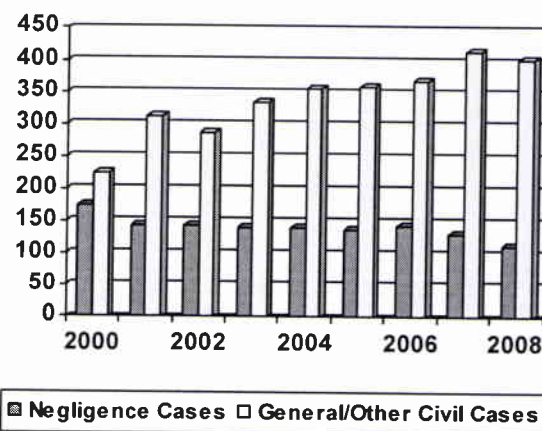
Personal Protection Orders

A total of 499 requests for personal protection orders were filed in 2008, compared to 550 last year. Of the requests filed, 358 were requested in domestic situations, 116 (down from 168 last year) were requested in stalking situations and 25 (up from 16 last year) were requested against juveniles. There were 307 personal protection orders actually issued against adults (18 more than last year). Of these, 262 were domestic, 45 (up from 30 last year) were stalking. Only 7 (up from 2 last year) were against juveniles.



Negligence/Other Civil Cases

Negligence cases represent a relatively small fraction of the total annual case filings, but they are among the most complex and challenging cases. Typical negligence cases include automobile trauma, medical negligence, premises liability and disputes regarding insurance coverage or benefits. The attention paid to these cases resulted in significant court reforms that were made effective for cases filed after the spring of 1996. In 1996, negligence case filings constituted 12% of the Court's total filings. In 2008, only 113 new negligence cases were filed, compared to 131 last year. This represents a new all time low of only 3.3% of the new case filings. General and other civil matters constituted 12% of the new case filings at the beginning of the decade. In 2008, 401 general and other civil new cases were filed which for the first time represents less than 12% of the new case filings. The pie chart on page 11 indicates the make up of all of the new cases filed in 2008.



Civil Case Management

Case evaluation, facilitative mediation and final settlement conferences result in the resolution of a large number of cases, thereby reducing taxpayer cost by reducing the overall need for jurors, compensation for lay and expert witnesses in criminal cases and delaying the need for additional judges and courtrooms.

Case Evaluation

Case evaluation is a non-binding, alternative dispute resolution process in which a panel of experienced attorneys, based on written summaries and oral presentations, evaluates the case. In 2008, 259 cases (258 from this Circuit and 1 from the Charlevoix County Circuit Court) were ordered to case evaluation. Of these cases, 200 (77%) were dismissed or stayed prior to case evaluation being scheduled. Of the remaining 59 cases, 40 were evaluated. In only 4 (10%) of the cases evaluated did the parties accept the case evaluation. Three cases were dismissed between the evaluation and the end of the response time.

Final Settlement Conference

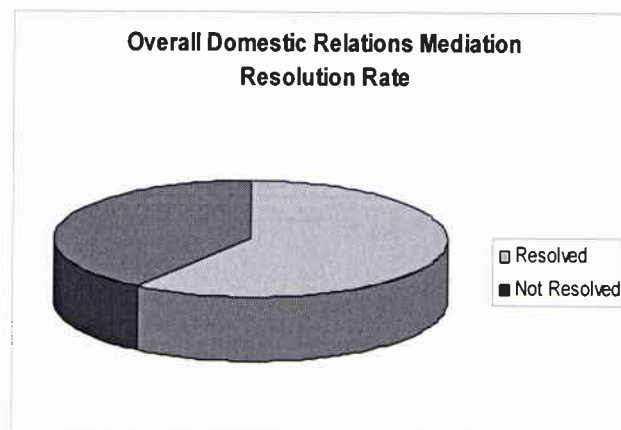
Of the 52 cases not resolved by case evaluation, 30 were resolved by the Court: 18 were settled before the final settlement conference, 7 were settled at the final settlement conference, 2 were settled before trial and 3 went to trial. The other 22 cases are still pending.

Facilitative Mediation

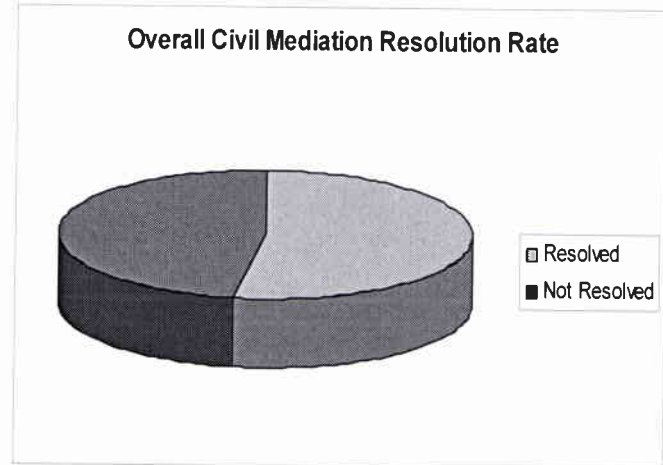
Facilitative mediation is an alternative dispute resolution process in which a neutral third party facilitates confidential communication between the parties in an attempt to help them reach a mutually agreeable resolution.

In 2008, the Court ordered both child-related and property-related issues in domestic relations matters into facilitative mediation. There were 238 pre-judgment domestic relations cases ordered into mediation for property- and/or child-related issues. Of the 154 cases involving property-related issues that were ordered into mediation, 57 (37%) were resolved before mediation; 56 (36%) were resolved at mediation; 38 (25%) were not resolved by mediation; and 3 (2%) are still pending. Of the 84 cases involving child-related issues that were ordered into mediation, 53 (63%) were resolved before mediation; 25 (30%) were resolved at mediation; and 6 (7%) were not resolved by mediation.

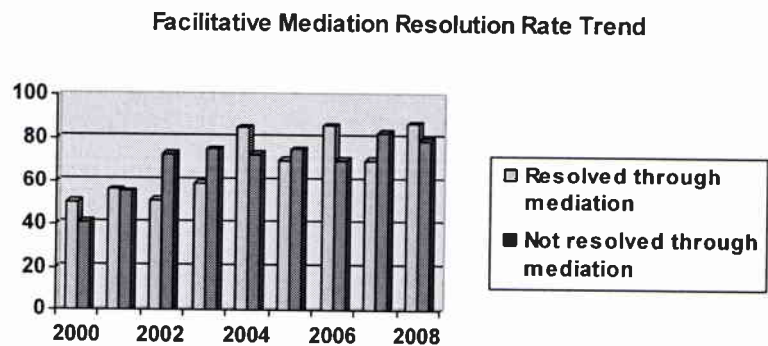
The Domestic Relations Referees also ordered 217 cases to mediation for child-related issues in pre- and post-judgment matters. Of those, 51 cases (23.5%) were resolved before the mediation hearing, 21 (9.7%) were removed from mediation by the assigned Judge, and 1 case is still pending. Of the 115 cases actually mediated, 62 (54%) were resolved through mediation and 53 (46%) were not. The overall resolution rate for all mediated domestic relations matters is illustrated in the pie chart.



A total of 293 civil cases were ordered into facilitative mediation. Of those, 184 cases were general civil cases and 109 were personal injury cases. A total of 113 (39%) cases were settled or otherwise resolved prior to mediation - 79 (70 %) of those were general civil cases and 34 (30 %) were personal injury cases. A total of 166 of the cases that were ordered into facilitative mediation were actually mediated. Of those, 87 cases (52%) were resolved at mediation - 48 (55%) were general civil and 39 (45%) were personal injury. Of the 79 cases that were not resolved at mediation, 49 (62%) were general civil and 30 (38%) were personal injury. At year end, there were 13 cases still pending - 6 general civil and 7 personal injury. This pie chart shows the overall mediation resolution rate for civil cases.



The historical success of facilitative mediation in civil cases is illustrated by this bar graph. The number and type of cases ordered into mediation fluctuates over time and affects the overall resolution rate. In 2001, for example, the Court began referring personal injury cases to facilitative mediation.



Initially, these cases were not as amenable to mediation as were other types of cases because the attorneys, parties and insurance adjusters were not accustomed to the mediation process. In 2008, however, 45% (up from only 27% in 2007) of the personal injury cases that were mediated were resolved at mediation. In general civil cases, 55% (up from 51% in 2007) of the cases that were mediated were resolved at mediation. Even if a case is not resolved at mediation, the mediation process is invaluable. Preparing for and participating in mediation reduces the range of disagreement and accelerates the process of settlement prior to trial.

Criminal Case Management Caseload

In 2008, the Thirteenth Circuit Court Judges sentenced 300 felons (as opposed to 321 last year). Of those felons, 96 (as opposed to 116 last year) were sentenced to prison; 49 (as opposed to 42 last year) were sentenced to jail; 148 (as opposed to 159 last year) were sentenced to probation with jail time; and 7 (as opposed to 4 last year) were sentenced to probation without any jail time. For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the prison commitment rate in Leelanau County was 26.2%; in Antrim County the prison commitment rate was 23.2%; and in Grand Traverse County the prison commitment rate was 29.8%, for an overall prison commitment rate of 27.7% (down from 32% last year). For the same period of time, the State's overall commitment rate was less than 20%. The 13th Circuit commitment rate is elevated to some degree by the number of felony drunk drivers who are referred to the District Court and processed as misdemeanors, rather than being sentenced to jail and probation as felons.

The following is a list of crimes for which individuals were sentenced in 2008.

	Prison	Jail	Probation w/ Jail	Probation	Totals
CRIMES AGAINST A PERSON					
Murder	2				2
Felonious Assault	4	1	4		9
Assault with a Dangerous Weapon	1		2		3
Aggravated Stalking	1				1
Assault and Battery	1	2	7		10
Surveillance of Unclothed Person			2		2
Accost a Child for Immoral Purposes	1				1
Possess Child Sexually Abusive Material	2		4		6
Criminal Sexual Conduct					
1st degree	5				5
2nd degree	7		1		8
3rd degree	3		1		4
4th degree	4	2	1		7
Domestic Violence 3rd offense	2	2	1		5
Home Invasion	2		3		5
Armed Robbery	2				2
Unarmed Robbery	2				2
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY					
Arson	1		2		3
Breaking and Entering a Building			5		5
Breaking and Entering a Coin Operated Device		1	2		3

Embezzlement			6	1	7
False Pretenses	1				1
Forgery	1		1		2
Larceny		2	5		7
Larceny in a Building	4	5	19		28
Larceny from a Person	1				1
Malicious Destruction of Property		1			1
No Account Checks	1		2	1	4
NSF Checks		1	1		2
Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property	1				1
Uttering and Publishing	2	2	3		7
Retail Fraud	1				1
Steal/Poss/Unauth Use of FTD	1	1	1		3
Unauthorized Driving of Motor Vehicle		1			1
CRIMES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES					
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver Marijuana	3	2	8		13
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver Cocaine	8	2	16		26
Possess Methamphetamine			2		2
Possess Schedule 5 Controlled Substance			1		1
Possess Codeine		1			1
Possess LSD		1			1
Obtain by Fraud	2		2		4
Maintaining a Drug House	1	5	8		14
Prisoner in Possession of Contraband			1		1
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER					
Desertion/Abandonment/Non-support	2		2		4
Failure to Pay Child Support			6	5	11
Gross Indecency	3		3		6
Sex Offender Failure to Register	2	1			3
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY					
Carrying a Concealed Weapon		1	2		3
Possess a Dangerous Weapon			1		1
Fleeing/Eluding/Resisting/Obstructing Police		4	2		6

Possession of a Firearm by a Felon			2	2
Felonious Driving	1		2	3
OUIL 3 rd	16	9	13	38
OUIL Causing Death	1	1		2
OUIL Causing Serious Injury			1	1
OUIL w/ Occupant Under 12			1	1

CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC TRUST

Bribe/Intimidate a Witness	3			3
False Sworn Statement by Contractor	1			1
Fraudulent Use of Builders Trust Fund			1	1
Welfare Fraud		1		1
Conducting a Criminal Enterprise			1	1

TOTALS

300**

**This total does not include all of the felonies charged in the Circuit. Offenders who commit multiple crimes in one episode are only counted once for their most serious crime.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Back Row: William Fleming (GTC), Daniel Bard (MPF), Steven Brett (LC), Charles Welch (GTC), James Monette (GTC)

Middle Row: James Ribby (AC), Bill Catinella (Supervisor), Jo Meyers (GTC), Dawn Bard (AC), Thomas Chapman (GTC), Sally Miklos (GTC)

GTC – Grand Traverse County; MPF – Pugsley Facility; LC – Leelanau County; AC – Antrim County

Front Row: Sandra Blake, Christa Gaugler, Linda Lautner (Secretaries)

GTC (Grand Traverse County)

LC (Leelanau County)

AC (Antrim County)

Probation officers are employees of the Michigan Department of Corrections. There are nine probation officers for the three counties who each supervise an average of 80 clients per month. In addition, they are responsible for preparing a pre-sentence investigation report regarding each defendant. A pre-sentence investigation report includes an interview and statement from the defendant and information regarding the defendant's background, family, education, physical characteristics, and previous criminal history. The Court utilizes the report when determining an appropriate sentence. In 2008, the Probation Department completed 36 pre-sentence investigation reports in Leelanau County, 84 in Antrim County and 217 in Grand Traverse County for a total of 337 or an average of just under 26 pre-sentence investigation reports per month. These figures include new conviction and delayed sentence updates, but not probation violation updates. There were a total of 98 probation violations initiated in 2008 that required pre-sentence investigation report updates - 25 in Antrim County, 6 in Leelanau County and 67 in Grand Traverse County - approximately 8 per month.

Members of the Probation Department also assist with collection efforts to recover costs and restitution and they work closely with the Office of Community Corrections.

Community Corrections Officers are County employees who meet with both misdemeanor and felony prisoners in the three counties and prepare petitions for release into the Community Corrections Program for those who are eligible. If a petition is approved by the jail, probation staff and judge, an inmate can begin the rehabilitative process in any of a number of alternative, early release programs that address needs such as substance abuse, housing, and criminal thinking. While in the Community Corrections Program, they are supervised by Community Corrections Officers. More than 82.5% of the felons successfully complete the Community Corrections program. The Community Corrections Program is funded by the counties and the state. Because of the Community Corrections Program, 24,587 county jail bed days (over 67 daily) were saved during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

FAMILY DIVISION

The Family Division of the Circuit Court has jurisdiction over criminal cases involving minors, child abuse and neglect, guardianships of juveniles, adoption proceedings, and domestic relations matters. Each county maintains a local office of the Family Division. In Leelanau County, 99 new domestic relations cases were filed and 106 domestic relations cases were disposed of in 2008. In Antrim County, 187 new domestic relations cases were filed and the Court disposed of 178 cases. In Grand Traverse County, 754 new domestic relations cases were filed and the Court disposed of 815 cases. In addition, the Family Division in Leelanau County handled 67 juvenile delinquency petitions, 5 abuse and neglect cases, 5 miscellaneous family matters, 11 adoptions and 10 requests for adult and juvenile personal protection orders. The Family Division in Antrim County handled 169 juvenile delinquency petitions, 17 abuse and

neglect cases, 22 adoptions and 70 requests for adult and juvenile personal protection orders. In Grand Traverse County, the Family Division handled 447 delinquency petitions, 74 abuse and neglect cases, 31 miscellaneous family matters, 75 adoptions and 419 requests for adult of juvenile personal protection orders.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY FAMILY AND PROBATE COURT

In Grand Traverse County, the Family Division is divided between Circuit Court Judges Rodgers and Power and Probate Judge David Stowe. Judge Stowe presides over one-half of all domestic relations cases involving minors and all personal protection orders involving minors. In 2008, 754 new domestic cases were filed - 502 involving minor children and 252 not involving minor children.

The Family Division under the direction of Judge Stowe is also vested with the authority to preside over all juvenile delinquency and parental abuse and neglect cases. There were 447 new juvenile delinquency petitions, 94 new neglect and abuse petitions, 75 new adoptions, and 419 new requests for adult and juvenile personal protection orders filed in Grand Traverse County in 2008.



Therapeutic Programs Coordinator Greg Brainard,
Court Reporter Janet McGee, Judge David Stowe,
Referees Dennis Mikko and Cynthia Conlon



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Cindy Edmonson -
Delinquency, Sue Bennett and Janet Kronk - Neglect &
Abuse/Adoption, Joanie Layton - Juvenile, Cheyrl
Church - Collections

The Juvenile Division utilizes a holistic approach when addressing the multiple issues presented by youth and families. Over 3,200 direct contacts with youth were recorded in 2008, with a primary goal of blending punitive and therapeutic measures. A strong collaborative approach has been developed with



JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS:
Eric Salani, Cheryl Goodwin, Jeff Burdick,
Barb Donaldson, Roger LaLonde, Kate Eskilsen

community service providers. This approach has led to 68% of youth departing from the system with a successful completion of probation. Some programs utilized include: anger management, cognitive therapy, boxing, Youth Corp, music, New Vision Academy, and self-esteem enhancement.

The Court has continued to see an increase in abuse and neglect cases, a trend exacerbated by the difficult economic times. In 2008, there were 94 new cases, up 30% from the previous year, and involving over 200 children.

The Court employs an aggressive prevention model when dealing with both delinquency and abuse and neglect cases. Additional programs include Adolescent and Family Drug Court, Truancy Intervention, SHOCK – Shoplifting Is A Crime Kids, and Learning Partners; a program specifically designed as early elementary intervention to prevent court involvement. The Court utilizes a collections program intended to minimize the cost of services to the taxpayers of the county. The program works with many families who suffer from financial hardships. In 2008, over \$390,000 was collected to offset the cost of programming.

The Volunteer Services Division of the Family Court provides support to probations staff, neglect and abuse cases, truancy intervention, and diversion and prevention program throughout the county. Over 150 volunteers work one-to-one as mentors and probation monitors, tutors, transporters, and CASA volunteers – Court Appointed Special Advocates for children in out-of-home placements. Volunteers also staff a Citizen Panel addressing first offense shoplifting.



VOLUNTEER SERVICES: Coordinator Linda Fawcett, Administrative Assistants Kelly Majszak and Judy Sanders, Laura Shumate (Learning Partners), Cheri Haines (Community Service)

LEELANAU COUNTY FAMILY AND PROBATE COURT



Back Row: Tom Mayhew, Joseph Povolo, Therese Schaub, Susan Richards, Honorable Joseph E. Deegan
Front Row: Julie Orr, Josephine Lingaur, Betsy Fisher, Ryan Douglass

The Leelanau County Family Division has an active Volunteer Program that coordinates the Community Service Work Garden, among other programs. All of the members of the juvenile staff are heavily involved in the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council. Betsy Fisher and Therese Schaub are trained coaches for the Girls on the Run Program which is designed to help girls between the ages of 8 and 11 celebrate being girls and develop strong self-esteem through physical fitness. Tom Mayhew is a Diversion Program counselor who emphasizes prevention. Leelanau County also has a strong substance abuse program. Ryan Douglass provides the Court's drug testing service.

ANTRIM COUNTY FAMILY AND PROBATE COURT



Standing: Bill Hefferan, Sandy Davids, Teresa Ankney, Pat Theobald, Kim Albert, Raelene Reilly
Seated: Honorable Norman R. Hayes

The year 2008 began and ended with a nationwide recession that began as early as 2004 in the State of Michigan. Since that time, the Antrim County Family Division has prioritized its mission as that of maintaining mandatory services, with a focus on the conservation of current resources.

Difficult economic times assure increased demand on public agencies. The Court saw a 24% increase in delinquency and domestic relation cases and a 10% increase in net Child Care Fund expenditures compared to 2007 (the Court still reserved 35% or \$135,000 of its allocated Child Care Fund at the end of 2008). The larger client base concurrently stressed the Court's general fund budget most notably with a 15% increase in indigent counsel costs. Complicating matters even more was the rising cost of employee health care (9%). Identifying these trends in the first quarter of 2008, the Court aggressively attacked discretionary service and supply spending and was permitted by the funding unit to offer employees a retirement incentive to reduce payroll costs. These actions offset others and Family Division General Fund Budget expenditures ended 2008 3% below allocation.

In 2009, this Division hopes for an economic recovery, but will plan for continuing high unemployment and decreased revenue sharing. In either environment, the Court is committed to providing unparalleled service to Antrim County families in distress. With the support of Antrim County Clerk Laura Sexton, all nine members of the Antrim County Commission, and the Court's human service agency partners, Judge Hayes and his staff look forward to the challenge of 2009 and beyond.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND JUVENILE REFEREES



Dennis Mikko and Cynthia Conlon are referees for domestic relations and juvenile matters in the Family Division. Both are attorneys licensed to practice law in Michigan and came to the Court with



substantial trial experience. The Referees preside over child abuse/neglect cases, juvenile offender matters and all child-related issues in domestic relations cases in all three counties. Through its alternative dispute resolution program, specifically facilitative mediation and final settlement conferences, the Court encourages and enables parents to resolve their issues cooperatively and reach mutually agreeable solutions without the adversity and expense often associated with trial. In 2008, the Referees conducted 288 pre-trial and custody and support hearings, 1,088 show cause hearings, 459 juvenile delinquency preliminary hearings, 74 abuse and neglect preliminary hearings, and 1,104 other juvenile and abuse and neglect hearings. The Referees also reviewed 399 requests for personal protection orders and conducted 120 personal protection order hearings.

FRIEND OF THE COURT

Dawn Rogers is the Friend of the Court. Her office (the “FOC”) is responsible for representing the best interests of the children in those cases which come before the Circuit Court Family Division because of divorce, custody, child support, visitation or paternity disputes. The FOC case managers conduct interviews, gather financial information, mediate with parties and prepare written proposals offering their recommendations for review by the Family Division Judges as to what would be the best resolution possible for the children. Whenever the Court enters an order regarding custody, child support, visitation or paternity issues, the FOC is responsible for enforcing that order.



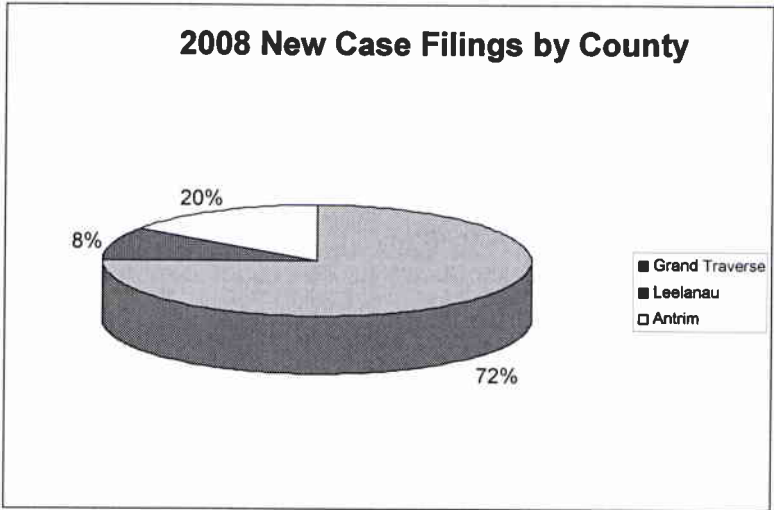
Back Row: Fran Boyle, Julie Conway, Jayne Arnold, Angela Pelletier, Ellene Peters, Carol Rose, Jeremy Hogue

Middle Row: Pete Walters, Tracie Ames, Gloria VanHoose, Alisa Gallo, Mary Anne Lyberg, Mary Anderson

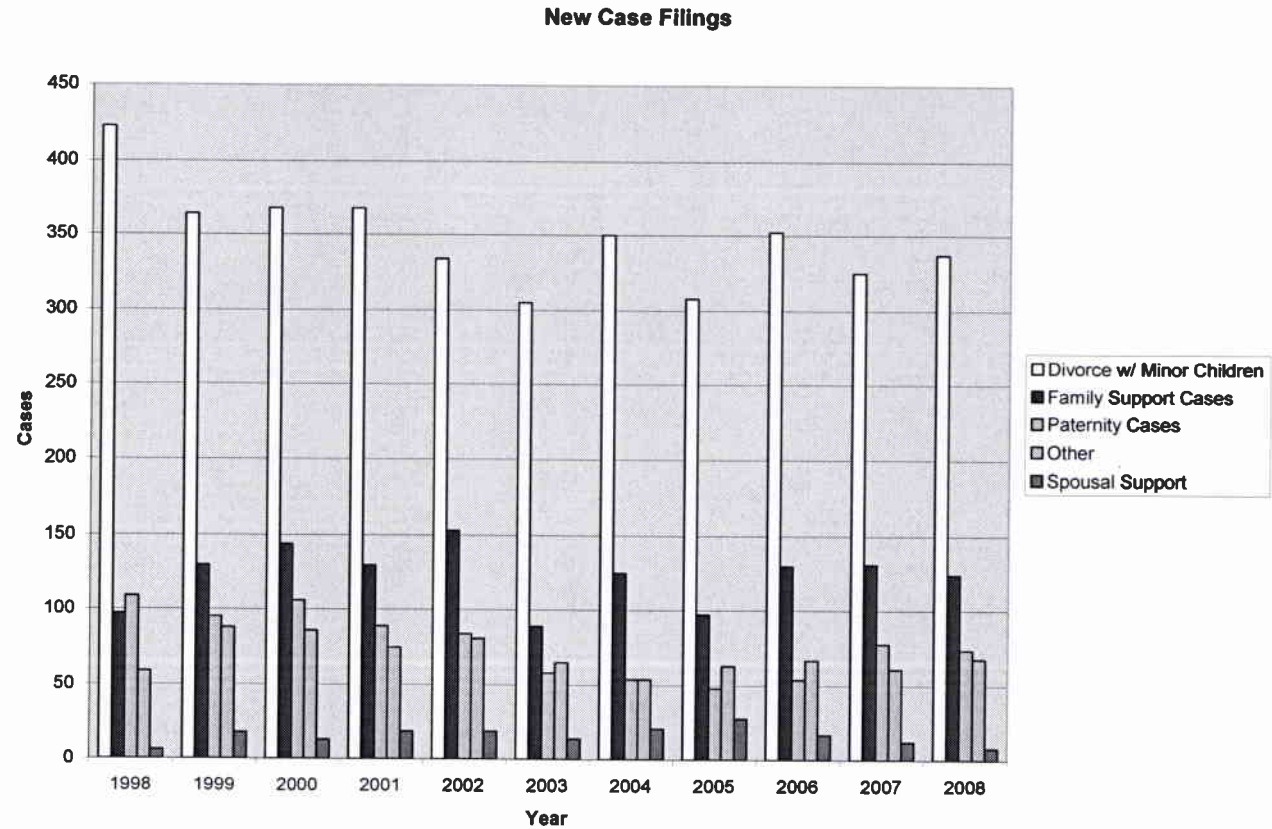
Front Row: Karen Sanchez, Nan Krueger, Dawn Rogers, Al Crocker

Case Management Activities

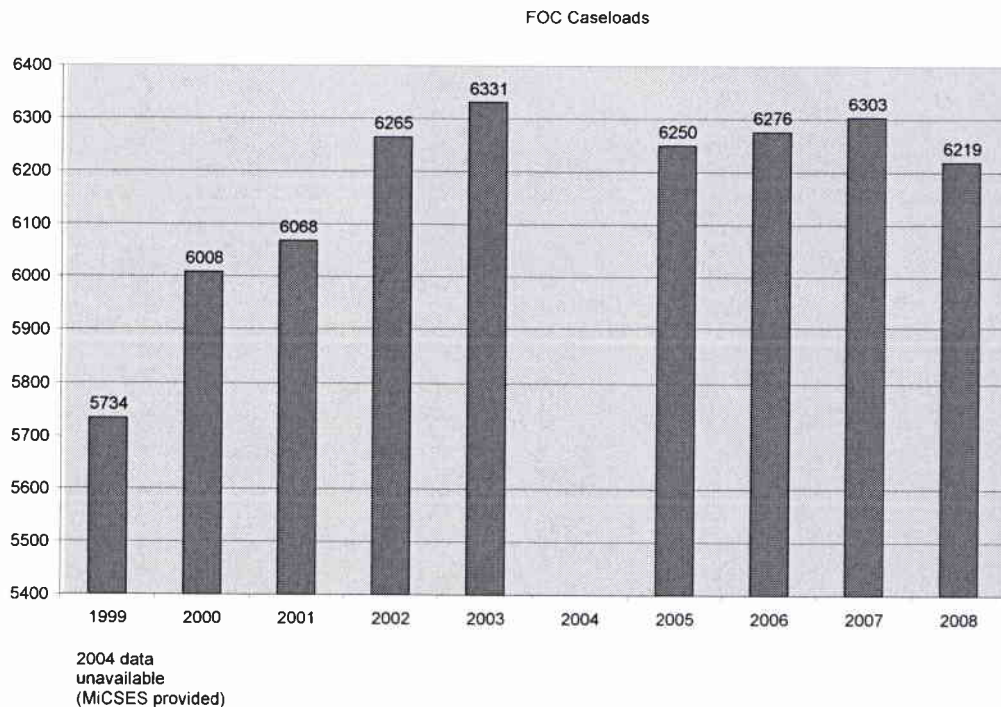
In 2008, 611 new cases were opened; an average of 51 per month. Of the new cases, 443 (72% of the new cases) were from Grand Traverse; 121 (20%) were from Antrim; and 47 (8%) were from Leelanau. Of the new cases, 345 (56%) were divorces, while 198 (32%) represent paternity or family support act cases. [The remainder are custody cases (filed under the Custody Act), interstate or in-state transfers.] There were 8 divorce cases without minor children referred to FOC for an investigation and recommendation on temporary spousal support.



This bar graph shows the new case filings by case type for each county over the past ten years.



This bar graph shows the total number of new case filings for the past ten years.



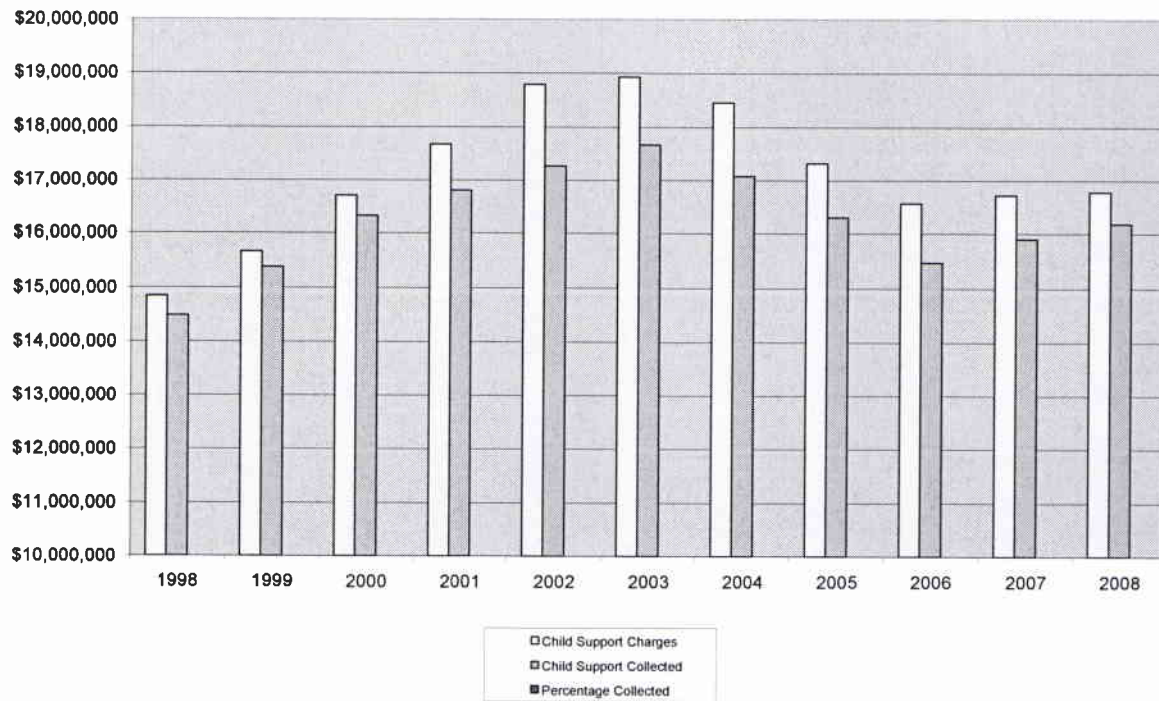
During 2008, the Case Management staff conducted investigations and made recommendations for temporary orders in 545 cases in an average of 21 days from receipt of the case at the FOC to submission of a recommended order to the Judge. In 55% of the cases in which initial investigations were conducted, some form of public assistance was being provided, primarily (90%) Medicaid.

Persons without legal assistance (*pro per*) represented 27% of the new cases filed in 2008. Of the initial orders generated by the FOC, 57% granted custody to the mother, 5% granted custody to the father, 31% provided for shared physical custody. The balance represents split care, third-party care and cases where custody was reserved initially, usually due to the fact that the parties were still residing in the same household. In 70% of the new cases, the parties *agreed* to custody at the initial conference; in 14% of the new cases, custody was determined by default (one of the parties failed to appear or respond).

FOC conducted 605 reviews in 2008; an average of 50 monthly. The average number of days for the completion of a review was 23. Of all of the reviews, 83% addressed child support and 12% addressed parenting time issues. The balance addressed issues such as custody and domicile changes. FOC also prepared 236 stipulated orders for clients in 2008 in an average of 4 days. The FOC also processed 855 demands for reimbursement of children's medical expenses during 2008. The Court granted 36 petitions to "opt out" of FOC services.

Child Support Enforcement and Collections

Child Support Charges & Collections



In 2008, 1,523 support enforcement hearings were scheduled; 1088 were heard by the family division referees and 131 were heard by the court. The remainder was resolved by the FOC, usually due to payment or a successful income withholding.

In Grand Traverse County, a total of 436 warrants were issued – 133 for failure to appear; 303 for failure to comply with a previously court-ordered payment plan. During 2008, 321 outstanding warrants were resolved by FOC (e.g., payment arrangements made, bond or reduced bond posted at FOC, income withholding established) and there were 202 arrests.

In Antrim County, a total of 312 warrants were issued – 97 for failure to appear and 215 for failure to comply with Court-ordered payment plan. Of the outstanding warrants issued, 156 were resolved by the FOC during 2008 and there were 114 arrests.

In Leelanau County, 134 warrants were issued in 2008 – 37 for failure to appear and 97 for failure to comply with a Court-ordered payment plan. During 2008, FOC resolved 41 outstanding warrants and there were 50 arrests.

The spreadsheet on the next page tracks child support charges/child support distributions and child support collections distributed toward arrears for the past five years. The source of this information is the State's Department of Human Services' Data Warehouse - the Federal 284A report. In each instance the report is reflective of the fiscal year (Oct 1 - Sept 30). Please note that the data is for *distributions*, not *collections*.

Child Support Collections		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Antrim County							
Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year (lines 24B, C & D)		\$ 2,944,856.00	\$ 2,877,516.00	\$ 2,861,468.00	\$ 2,702,484.00	\$ 2,788,031.00	\$ 2,753,005.00
Support Distributed as Current Support (lines 25B, C & D)		\$ 1,965,406.00	\$ 2,031,864.00	\$ 1,985,528.00	\$ 1,884,829.00	\$ 1,989,100.00	\$ 2,024,430.00
Support Distributed as Arrearage Support (lines 27B, C & D)		\$ 891,971.00	\$ 658,415.00	\$ 722,065.00	\$ 692,557.00	\$ 713,795.00	\$ 793,791.00
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected		66.7%	70.6%	69.4%	69.7%	71.3%	73.5%
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected		97.0%	93.5%	94.6%	95.4%	96.9%	102.4%
Grand Traverse County							
Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year (lines 24B, C & D)		\$ 13,289,470.00	\$ 12,863,901.00	\$ 11,904,460.00	\$ 11,398,374.00	\$ 11,328,547.00	\$ 11,493,288.00
Support Distributed as Current Support (lines 25B, C & D)		\$ 9,558,549.00	\$ 9,567,209.00	\$ 8,936,840.00	\$ 8,398,173.00	\$ 8,354,401.00	\$ 8,451,904.00
Support Distributed as Arrearage Support (lines 27B, C & D)		\$ 2,801,329.00	\$ 2,309,863.00	\$ 2,159,765.00	\$ 2,080,250.00	\$ 2,266,993.00	\$ 2,455,921.00
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected		71.9%	74.4%	75.1%	73.7%	73.7%	73.5%
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected		93.0%	92.3%	93.2%	91.9%	93.8%	94.9%
Leelanau County							
Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year (lines 24B, C & D)		\$ 2,688,671.00	\$ 2,705,894.00	\$ 2,555,834.00	\$ 2,462,597.00	\$ 2,606,531.00	\$ 2,533,656.00
Support Distributed as Current Support (lines 25B, C & D)		\$ 1,899,545.00	\$ 2,000,898.00	\$ 1,945,334.00	\$ 1,899,639.00	\$ 2,011,236.00	\$ 1,957,456.00
Support Distributed as Arrearage Support (lines 27B, C & D)		\$ 551,817.00	\$ 508,822.00	\$ 552,482.00	\$ 522,226.00	\$ 564,279.00	\$ 495,571.00
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected		70.6%	73.9%	76.1%	77.1%	77.2%	77.3%
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected		91.2%	92.8%	97.7%	98.3%	98.8%	96.8%
Combined							
Current Support Due - All Counties		\$ 18,922,997.00	\$ 18,447,311.00	\$ 17,321,762.00	\$ 16,563,428.00	\$ 16,723,109.00	\$ 16,779,950.00
Current Support Distributed - All Counties		\$ 13,423,500.00	\$ 13,599,971.00	\$ 12,867,702.00	\$ 12,182,641.00	\$ 12,354,737.00	\$ 12,433,790.00
Support Distributed as Arrears - All Counties		\$ 4,245,117.00	\$ 3,477,100.00	\$ 3,434,312.00	\$ 3,295,033.00	\$ 3,545,067.00	\$ 3,745,283.00
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected		70.9%	73.7%	74.3%	73.6%	73.9%	74.1%
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected		93.4%	92.6%	94.1%	93.4%	95.1%	96.4%

FOC activity highlights for 2008 included:

- **Imaging:** In 2008, the FOC successfully converted to a complete electronic document imaging system. All of the FOC case files (approximately 6,400) were converted from paper files to electronic images. FOC staff spent many extra hours cleaning case files and closing files eligible for closure. Implementation of the workflow component of the document imaging system, required 4 to 5 months of extensive planning, inventorying and mapping every single document and form in the FOC. Electronic versions of Court orders now automatically route within the office, to the Court for review and signing and then to the County Clerk's office for filing.
- **Courthouse Renovations:** Extensive renovations to the Courthouse required the FOC to move its operations into the Government Center in January and back into the Courthouse in October 2008. The renovations created more efficient space for the FOC staff.
- **Access and Visitation:** FOC received Access and Visitation grant funding from the State Court Administrative Office and has continued its relationship with **Child and Family Services** of Northwest Michigan to provide **supervised parenting time and safe parenting time exchanges** for families on the caseload. Twenty-one families were served in 2008.
- **Employment Programs:** FOC continues to refer parents who are not paying their child support to **Michigan Works** for employment services. Michigan Works sends a representative to referee show cause hearings in Grand Traverse County to meet with clients needing employment assistance. In 2008, FOC staff began going out to Michigan Works and meeting with clients on Thursday mornings at Job Club to track progress and encourage parents' participation in the JET program.
- **Educational Programs:** FOC continues to provide a bi-monthly educational program for parents going through a divorce (Start Making It Livable for Everyone) **SMILE**, which includes a presentation from a community-based therapist on the effects of divorce on children. Parents are also referred to parenting classes through the MSU Extension and to the Always A Parent classes offered by Child and Family Services.
- **Post-judgment mediation:** Working with the local **Community Reconciliation Service (CRS)**, referral of families to CRS for **post-judgment mediation** of custody/parenting time disputes continued in 2008. **Forty-six** families were referred to CRS for mediation of domestic relations matters.
- **Enforcement of Bench Warrants:** The **bench warrant enforcement fund** dollars have been used to reimburse local Sheriff's Departments for the mileage and officer wages expended in transporting persons arrested for nonpayment of child support. In 2008, \$9,925.50 was paid to the Grand Traverse, Antrim & Leelanau county Sheriff's Departments for the expenses of transporting individuals arrested on child support warrants.

JURY BOARDS

Each of the three counties has a three-member jury board. The members of the jury boards are appointed by the County Boards of Commissioners for six-year terms. The members of the Grand Traverse County jury board are Nancy Muha, Donna Keith and Mary Orth. The members of the Leelanau jury board are Carol Bunck, Teresa Morio and Joyce Stackable. The members of the Antrim County jury board are Kathleen Beal, Janice Olach and Patricia Jones-Colvin.

Each jury board obtains the names of prospective jurors from the Secretary of State list of licensed drivers and issued state identifications and is responsible for sending out the original juror questionnaires for their respective county. After the original questionnaire is returned, the jury boards pull the names of the jurors for their Circuit Court, District Court and Probate/Family Court.

The County Clerk's Office in each county is responsible for actually summoning the jurors for a particular Court panel. The County Clerk's Office is also responsible for following up with any juror who fails to return the initial questionnaire or appear when summoned. The County Clerk's Office pays the jurors for their service. The per diem is \$25 for a half day and \$50 for a full day of service.

To qualify as a juror, a person must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age and a resident of the county for which selected. A prospective juror must also be conversant with the English language, be physically and mentally able to carry out the functions of a juror (temporary inability is not considered a disqualification), not have served as a petit juror in a court of record during the preceding 12 months and not have been convicted of a felony.

In 2008, 348 people were summoned for jury service in Leelanau County. Of those prospective jurors, 28 were required to report for duty, but none actually served. The total cost to Leelanau County for jury service, including the per diem pay, mileage reimbursement, meals and miscellaneous expenses, was \$1,153.50. In Antrim County, 615 jurors were summoned in 2008, 209 reported for duty and 65 actually served in the 5 criminal cases that went to trial. The total cost to Antrim County was \$12,872.66. In Grand Traverse County, 2,464 prospective jurors were summoned; 709 reported for duty; and 219 actually served in the 17 criminal cases and 1 civil case that went to trial. The total cost of jury service in Grand Traverse County was \$54,455.16. Note that these figures do not include jurors who were summoned, reported and served in probate or juvenile matters.

COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Antrim Counties each have their own law library to which the Judges and their staff have access. The Grand Traverse Law Library, which is located on the fourth floor of the Grand Traverse County Historic Courthouse in Traverse City, is the largest of the county libraries. Grand Traverse County, the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association and the Traverse Area District Library operate in partnership to fund, house and staff the Grand Traverse County Law Library. The library maintains an up-to-date collection of Michigan court opinions, regulations, court rules, jury instructions, digests, citators, legal encyclopedias and dictionaries. The library also offers computer-assisted research and has a number of other resources to meet your information needs, including:

- Words and Phrases
- American Jurisprudence 2d
- West's Northwestern Reporter and related Shepard's Citator
- Grand Traverse Band Code
- Grand Traverse Band Tribal Court Opinions
- Indian Law Reporter
- Michigan Law Review
- Wayne Law Review
- Michigan Bar Journals going back to the late 1950s (nearly complete)
- Michigan Rules of Court (State) going back to 1985
- ICLE practice handbooks
- Westlaw
- Internet access

The library is open to the public on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Northwestern Michigan College Paralegal Program conducts a legal research class in the library each fall.

The Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association and Traverse Attorney Referral Service are operated out of the Grand Traverse County Law Library. In 2008, the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association hired **Jill Porter** as its new Executive Director and Librarian for the Grand Traverse County Law Library. Jill's experience includes serving as Director of Library Relations at the Practicing Law Institute and Associate Librarian for Information Services at Chadbourne & Parke, LLP. She received her Bachelor of Arts in History from Wells College in Aurora, New York, and her Master's in Information and Library Science from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. We are very pleased to have Jill on board.



SPECIAL EVENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Liberty Bell Award

Every year on Law Day, the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association organizes various activities which help to introduce members of the general public to the legal system and legal profession. The Bar offers tours of the Grand Traverse County Courthouse and County Law Library. The Bar staffs “Ask the Lawyer” forums throughout the community to answer law-related questions and hosts an annual theme student essay contest.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented to a non-lawyer member of the community who promotes a better understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights as they affect our lives, encourages a greater respect for our laws and courts, stimulates a deeper sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their duties in addition to their rights, contributes to the effective functioning of the democratic institutions of government, and fosters a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law with fairness and consistency.

Christine Maxbauer was this year’s Liberty Bell Award recipient. Christine was born and raised in Traverse City. She has demonstrated a deep sense of personal responsibility and public service.



She serves as a Grand Traverse County Commissioner. By word and deed, she has shown how one citizen can make a big difference.

In presenting this award, the Bar Association noted that Christine actively promoted open government by personally taping many county governmental meetings. She understands the importance of transparency in governmental proceedings - it promotes fairness and consistency. She made it happen over initial objections. Christine did what was right for the people of Grand Traverse County. Congratulations, Christine.